Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /085 W

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R 251635Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5788

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL RABAT 3067

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: SPANISH SOLDIERS REPORTED KILLED IN

GUERRILLA INCIDENT

1. IN JUNE 25 ARTICLE REPORTING PARA-MILITARY ACTIVITY IN SAHARA, SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS SUGGESTED FOR FIRST TIME THAT GOM-BACKED FLU GUERRILLAS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEATH OF SPANISH, AS OPPOSED TO SAHRAOUI, SOLDIERS. ARTICLE, WHICH CONTAINED FLU COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING A SUCCESSFUL ASSAULT ON SAHARA OUTPOST OF TAH JUNE 20, ALSO QUOTED AN AFP REPORT THAT FOUR SPANISH SOLDIERS AND ONE OFFICER WERE KILLED WHEN THEIR RECON VEHICLE STRUCK A LAND MINE. ARTICLE'S TEXT AND HEADLINE "AUDACIOUS FLU OPERATION...SEVERAL SPANISH SOLDIERS KILLED" IMPLIED THAT SAME GUERRILLAS WHO ATTACKED TAH ALSO PLANTED MINE. FLU COMMUNIQUE, HOWEVER, ONLY MADE USUAL REFERENCE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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DEAD AND WOUNDED AMONG "OCCUPATION FORCES."

- 2. DAO RABAT'S IR 685 0152 75 REPORTS SPANISH SOURCE'S CLAIM THAT MINE LAID BY "MOROCCANS" DURING PROBING OPERATION AGAINST TAH JUNE 7.
- 3. COMMENT: SPANISH DEATHS AND SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS TREATMENT OF INCIDENT AMOUNT TO ANOTHER ESCALATION OF PRESSURE ON SPAIN. GOM NO DOUBT HOPES TO KEEP UP IMAGE OF CONTINUING LIBERATION STRUGGLE. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, GOM WOULD APPEAR TO BE COURTING POSSIBILITY OF HARSHER SPANISH REACTION THAN IN PAST.

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, PRESS COMMENTS, DEATHS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

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Subject: SPANISH SAHARA: SPANISH SOLDIERS REPORTED KILLED IN GUERRILLA INCIDENT TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SS, SP To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006